

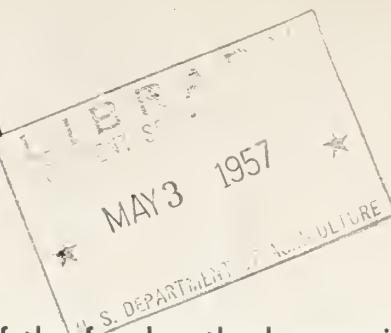
## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



**FOOD**

**PREVIEW**



A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service

April 23, 1957  
F P - 8

- MEAT: Supplies for the year will be moderately less than 1956's record high, but will still total larger than any other year.
- Beef: Total supplies in the second half probably will be smaller than last year. A larger proportion of the total will be of top quality, and marketings of top qualities will be more orderly than last year. A smaller proportion of the year's total probably will be of the lean "grass" cattle, if spring rains improve pastures and ranges and slow marketings off grass next fall.
- Pork: Supplies, so far, have been running well behind last year. They will continue below a year earlier until toward the end of 1957, but will gradually close the gap as the year progresses. Next fall and winter, supplies will likely be at least equal to a year earlier.
- Lamb: Supplies for 1957 will likely be close to those of last year.
- POULTRY:
- Eggs: Not much change in supply is in sight, through the spring. Size of laying flock is about same as last year, but rate of lay is up slightly. But reduced supplies are indicated for the last half of 1957. Hatchings for laying flock replacement have been running well below figures for year ago, and not enough pullets will be on hand next fall to keep production up to 1956 levels.
- Chickens: Supplies of broilers, already high, will probably rise further for the next few months. But gain is likely to be less than earlier this year. Hatchings for the year's first 3 months totaled 6 percent larger than last year.
- Turkeys: Poult hatchings so far this year totaled 8 percent larger than a year ago. Large storage stocks still remain from last year's record crop; April 1 stocks were more than double the year-ago figure.
- DAIRY: Milk production promises to reach a new high in 1957, probably around 2 billion pounds larger than the record 1956 total of 125.7 billion pounds. This would be the fifth consecutive year a new record has been set. Number of milk cows is down 1 percent from last year, but rate of production per cow continues to set new records. March output edged above the previous record for the month, set last year. Rate of milk production has increased 20 percent in last decade; during next decade, increase will probably be at least as large.
- RICE: Farmers plan to plant much less -- about 10 percent less than last year, and the smallest acreage since 1941.
- DRY BEANS: Supplies are slightly smaller than last year, but more than adequate for domestic and export demand. Farmers plan to plant slightly more than last year.

FRUIT:

Deciduous: April 1 peach prospects in southern states were best in 4 years, and well above average.

Citrus: The 1956-57 orange crop is 1 percent larger than a year ago. Production of early and midseason oranges is 4 percent over last year. But Valencias, harvested mostly in the coming summer and fall, are down 2 percent from last year. Grapefruit production is 6 percent smaller than last year. Production of California lemons is 11 percent above last year. The lime crop in Florida is up 5 percent over last year.

Berries: Supplies of strawberries from early-spring States are estimated nearly 20 percent smaller than a year ago. But acreage for mid-spring is up about 7 percent, and prospective acreage for late-spring States up 12 percent. Mid- and late-spring States produce most of the year's strawberries.

Melons: Spring cantaloup acreage is estimated down 16 percent. Preliminary estimates point to a marked increase in acreage of watermelons for both late-spring and early-summer. But, if growers follow their intentions, acreage in late-summer States will be down 3 percent from last year.

VEGETABLES: Supplies of early and mid-spring vegetables are expected to be 10 percent less than last year, but still 7 percent above average. Tomatoes, onions, and sweet corn account for the largest portion of the decline from last year. Production of broccoli, cabbage, green peas will also be lighter than in 1956. But supplies will be larger for lettuce, cauliflower, asparagus, cucumbers, and snap beans. Production estimates are available on only a few other spring crops: Reductions are indicated for carrots and green peppers, while celery is up. A marked increase is indicated for acreage of late-spring asparagus and onions.

Processing: Prospective planted acreage of 5 vegetables for commercial processing is slightly less than last year, but slightly larger than average. Acreage of snap beans is up 7 percent, and winter and early-spring spinach up 4 percent. But sweet corn and green peas are each down 3 percent, and cabbage for kraut (the contract acreage only) down 11 percent.

Potatoes: Heavy supplies are in prospect, over the next couple of months, with storage stocks from last year's crop holding well above a year ago. Production of early-spring crop is 7 percent above the 1956 crop. In late-spring states, acreage for harvest is 5 percent over last year.

Sweet-potatoes: Supplies remaining from the 1956 crop are much smaller than a year ago. Farmers plan to cut plantings 3 percent from last year, down to the lowest level in years.

---

## The Plentiful Foods Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, will support industry campaigns on the following commodities, at the following times:

BEEF . . . . .	May	9 to May	18
MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS . . . . .	June	1 to June	30
MIDSUMMER TURKEY TIME . . . . .	July	25 to August	4

---